



THE BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION

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President: Barbara Krahe, krahe@uni-postdam.de
President-Elect: Eric F. Dubow, edubow@bgsu.edu
Past President: Mike Potegal, poteg001@umn.edu
Executive Secretary: Dominic Parrott, parrott@gsu.edu
Treasurer: Sarah Coyne, smcoyne@byu.edu
Archivist: Kaj Björkqvist, kaj.bjorkqvist@abo.fi

North American Editor of the ISRA Bulletin: Jamie M. Ostrov, University at Buffalo, SUNY,
Buffalo, NY USA 14260,
jostrov@buffalo.edu

European Editor of the ISRA Bulletin: Katja Bertsch, University of Heidelberg, 69115
Heidelberg, Germany
Katja.Bertsch@med.uni-heidelberg.de

ISRA home page: <http://www.israsociety.com>

ISRA on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ISRASociety> **Follow us:** @ISRASociety

The North American Editor produced this issue

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Editorial
Jamie M. Ostrov
North American *Bulletin* Editor



Welcome to the June 2019 edition of the *ISRA Bulletin*.

I would first like to introduce myself as the new North American Editor of the *ISRA Bulletin*. I am a developmental psychologist and developmental psychopathologist and I have been working at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York since 2004. I am honored to be a member of the ISRA Council and pleased to prepare this bulletin, along with the European Editor (Katja Bertsch). I want to echo Katja's appreciation to Eric, Dominic, and Barbara for the opportunity and assistance in pulling together this edition. Thanks also to those that submitted material that we feature within the *Bulletin*.

In this *Bulletin*, in addition to reports from our President-Elect, President, Executive Secretary, and Editor of Aggressive Behavior, we are happy to provide detailed information about our XXIVth World Meeting that will be held in Ottawa, Canada. We hope that all members will submit an abstract and attend the meeting in beautiful Ottawa in July 2020!

In this *Bulletin*, we next have an in memoriam section for Ron Baenninger, an esteemed leader in the field and this society, whom we recently lost.

Next, we have a travel diary from ISRA member Cara Swit from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Cara secured a prestigious Erskine Fellowship to attend the recent SRCD meeting in Baltimore, MD and then served as a visiting scholar at my university and BYU.

Then, I present historical reflections on ISRA from a long time leader and ISRA Life Fellow.

Then, I present news about ISRA: a call for members to contribute a blog to our website, information about new books by ISRA members, news about ISRA members, and descriptions of the research programs of a few of our emerging aggression researchers. I also share advertisements and links for faculty and staff positions.

Next, a new special issue is reported as well as a call for papers for a future special issue. Finally, you will find the ISRA Flyer that is designed to describe our Society, increase our exposure, and attract new members; **be sure to share this flyer with your colleagues and students.**

In closing, please remember that our goal for the *Bulletin* is to keep our members informed of scholarship in the area of aggression and to share each other's work. So, please email me with any materials you would like us to include in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

Best wishes, hope you enjoy your summer!

-Jamie

A Message from Our President-Elect, Eric Dubow

It is a real honor for me to become President-Elect of ISRA. I want to thank Barbara Krahe and Rowell Huesmann for the mentoring they've already provided for me in this role and for the guidance I'll seek in the future! I indicated in my comments in the December 2018 Bulletin that there were a few areas where I'd like to see ISRA continue to move in the years ahead: supporting young investigators;



broadening the research topics at our World Meetings and in *Aggressive Behavior*; encouraging research collaborations among members; and continuing to produce scholarly reviews of pressing policy-related topics. I believe we are moving forward in these areas. I want to cite a few highlights.

First, we are beginning to plan the scientific program for the World Meeting in Ottawa in 2020. The council members, officers, and I are considering plenary speakers across topic areas (e.g., animal/biological/neurological models; criminology/terrorism; developmental; social-cognition; bullying). We hope to be able to finalize the set of four speakers by September. If you have recommendations, please shoot me an email (edubow@bgsu.edu).

Second, as you've seen in your recent emails, we are very happy to have a regional ISRA meeting in October 2019 in Jerusalem. Many thanks to Mike Potegal and Tom Gumpel for organizing this meeting. We expect it to be a smallish meeting, perhaps 50 or so members. It provides us the opportunity to reach out to researchers who are not familiar with ISRA as well as to form research collaborations with new colleagues. The registration site is now open. Go to <https://www.israsociety.com/jerusalem-regional-meeting> and register today to take advantage of early-bird registration fees. Mike and Tom announced some interesting symposia and plenary sessions.

Prof. Azar Gat (Tel Aviv University)

Are violence and war in our nature: What is right and what is wrong about the Seville Statement on Violence?

Prof. Paul J. Frick (Louisiana State University)

Plenary: The role of callous-unemotional traits in the development of aggression in children in adolescents

Symposium: Callous-unemotional traits and their implications for understanding, assessing, and treating aggression in children and adolescents

Prof. Eric F. Dubow (Bowling Green State University) and Simha Landau (Hebrew University):

Symposium: **Understanding the psychological processes in the relation between exposure to ethnic-political violence and aggression among Israeli and Palestinian youth: The role of social cognitions and emotional dysregulation**

Prof. Kaj Björkqvist (Åbo Akademi University, Finland).

Plenary: **Sex Differences in Aggressive Behavior: A Review**

Mike and Tom are working to put together a stimulating scientific program. And if you have not been to Israel, please use this opportunity to come for the meeting, and extend your visit to make this a trip of a lifetime! I hope to see you there.

Best wishes, Eric

A Message from Our President Barbara Krahe



Your Input is Requested for Three Important Tasks

Dear ISRA Members,

I hope that this message finds you all well! First of all, I am very happy to say that preparations for the next World Meeting in Ottawa are making great progress, as you can also see in other places in this Bulletin. Building on our strong tradition of World Meetings, we can look forward to another exciting and productive meeting, so please put the dates (*July 20-24, 2020*) firmly into your diaries now.

In the meantime, I would like to come back to what I wrote in the last edition of the Bulletin and presented at the Business Meeting in Paris regarding the development of ISRA in several respects:

broadening our membership, both in geographical and interdisciplinary terms, and taking a more active role in feeding our research achievements into public and political discourses. With this message, I would like to invite you to contribute your input to the following three tasks I have in mind for moving things forward in these directions:

(1) Please send me **names of individuals and professional organizations** to whom I can reach out to spread information about ISRA and attract new members. Given that we currently have no or very few members from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern and Northern Europe, please think especially about names from these parts of the worlds. Please also think about people working in areas that you feel are not represented well among the membership and at our conferences. These may be people with whom you have collaborated and/or whose work you find noticeable in your own field of research and who would be great to bring into ISRA.

(2) I would like to start compiling a **knowledge base about effective, evidence-based interventions** in all areas related to aggression. My impression is that there remains a large gap between interventions implemented in the field and the theory and evidence on modifiable risk factors of aggression that we generate as researchers. So I propose that we jointly work on a creating a resource of references to interventions based on sound theory and data and subjected to systematic and rigorous evaluation. This knowledge base should be as broad as possible, covering all forms of aggression, age groups, and types of risk factors at different levels. So please send me **references to studies from your own lab, studies that you consider high quality, and review papers and meta-analyses** that present a state-of-the art picture of what we know works in preventing aggression in all shapes and forms. Once we have a sufficiently large stock of such studies, we can decide on the best ways of using it to inform each other and wider audiences within and beyond academia.

(3) Further toward the aim of translating aggression research into solving social problems, we should continue to make use of the instrument of **Expert Committees**. As per the ISRA Constitution and Bylaws, these standing committees are appointed by the President, and they have been instituted to create statements that inform the public about the latest evidence on understanding aggression across all areas of our field. In the more recent past, two such committees have successfully been at work, producing expert statements on the *effects of media violence* and on *risk factors of youth violence*. Both statements are available on the ISRA website (<https://www.israsociety.com/resources/for-the-public>). To qualify for an expert statement, a topic should address a pressing social problem, have a clear theoretical foundation and strong evidence base, and relate to the expertise of a core team of ISRA members to take responsibility for the production of the statement. This is true, for instance, for topics such as gun violence or intergroup conflict in the context of migration, but there are many more topics that are prominent in public debate and would greatly benefit from our expert input. Please send me **suggestions for topics** for which you think there is a need and also a basis for an expert statement from the ISRA membership, ideally along with a few names of people who could serve on such a committee.

In combination, I believe these initiatives will add further to the visibility and impact of ISRA, and it would be excellent if we could jointly achieve progress in each of them. So please fill my inbox with lots of messages.

I wish you all a very pleasant summer in which you can recharge your batteries and enjoy quality time with your families and friends!

Cordially,
Barbara Krahé

A Message from our Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott



Dear ISRA Colleagues:

We are one year away from ISRA's 24th World Meeting in Ottawa, Canada. This will be the fourth time that the World Meeting has been held in Canada and the first time in 20 years. Tracy Vaillancourt and her team are in the depths of preparations and are going to organize a wonderful World Meeting. President-Elect Eric Dubow will serve as the Program Chair and oversee the scientific program. ISRA will once again sponsor the Young Investigators program, and I am happy to work with Tom Gumpel to organize this program. More information about the upcoming World Meeting can be found in the present issue of the Bulletin.

In this issue of the Bulletin, I'd like to provide everyone updates regarding the ISRA website as well as planning for the 25th ISRA World Meeting, which will be held in 2022.

ISRA Website

In the past year, we've added some new content to the ISRA website for members to check out. This includes:

1. An expanded section on ISRA's history which includes a list of all ISRA officers dating back to 1972 (<https://www.israsociety.com/about/history>) as well as a summary of ISRA Life Fellows (<https://www.israsociety.com/initiatives/life-fellows>). Special thanks to Roger Johnson for compiling this!
2. A new page that features all recipients of the Scott Award (<https://www.israsociety.com/initiatives/scott-award>).
3. A new page that features ISRA's "Members in the Media" (<https://www.israsociety.com/members-in-the-media>). To keep this page current, I encourage any ISRA member who has work featured in media outlets to send that information to me so that we can post it to the ISRA website and disseminate it widely.

2022 ISRA World Meeting

While we are understandably focused on the 2020 World Meeting in Ottawa, we are already preparing for the 2022 World Meeting. We hope to have a final site selected by the end of the calendar year. Thus, if you are considering a proposal for hosting an ISRA World Meeting, please contact me directly if you have not done so already (parrott@gsu.edu). This is the "final call" for proposals to host the world meeting! All final proposals would be due in Fall 2019.

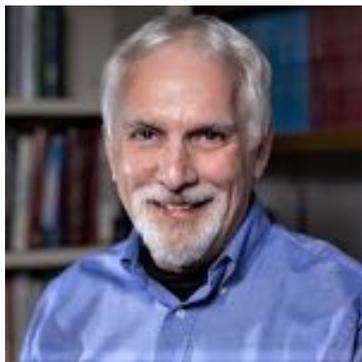
Best Regards,



Dominic Parrott
Executive Secretary, International Society for Research on Aggression

A Message from the Editor of *Aggressive Behavior* **Craig Anderson**

Hello again, ISRA colleagues.



I've now been at the helm of *Aggressive Behavior* for a little over 5 months. The transition has gone well, but with a few bumps resulting from my underestimating some of the responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief role, as well as from multiple changes in Wiley staff assigned to the journal. John Archer has been extremely generous in assisting with the transition, and our Associate Editors have been wonderful as well.

Speaking of our Associate Editors, I'd like to note that Justin Carré has accepted an editorial position at *Hormones and Behavior*, and that therefore he will be stepping down as an AE for *Aggressive Behavior*. He will continue to handle the manuscripts that are already in his queue, of course. But I won't be assigning him any new ones. I'd also like to thank Justin for his excellent work as an AE for *Aggressive Behavior*, and congratulate him on his new role.

In recent years, *Aggressive Behavior* had up to six Associate Editors. As noted in my December message, we were hoping to add two new AEs, to replace Sarah Coyne and me. We've added Christopher (Chris) Barlett (Gettysburg College) since then, bringing us up to five. Wiley didn't want to add a sixth, at least not immediately. With Justin's departure we are back down to four. However, after a careful search, Dr. S. Alexandra (Alex) Burt, (Michigan State University) has agreed to join our merry band in the fall.

At the moment, the journal is on pace to receive 300 or so submissions in 2019, very similar to or slightly higher than what was received in 2018. Wiley has allocated a few more pages to us.

There are several aspects to the Editor-in-Chief role that I'd like to mention. As Editor-in-Chief I read every manuscript that is submitted to the journal. And, as Editor-in-Chief one of my responsibilities is to screen out manuscripts that have little chance of being published in *Aggressive Behavior*. That is, I (as do all Editors) "desk reject" or "triage" a fair portion of manuscripts—reject them without assigning them to an AE. There are several reasons for this. One is to get feedback to the authors of such papers quickly, so that they can address major problems or find a more appropriate journal, without having to wait a couple of months for reviews to come in. Sometimes I direct them to more appropriate journals, other times I suggest new studies or methods, occasionally I give them specific suggestions (such as fixing major formatting, spelling, grammar errors) and invite them to submit the repaired paper as a new submission. A second reason is to reduce the load on our AEs, our Consulting Editors, and our many reviewers.

A second aspect of the Editor-in-Chief role that I'd like to mention concerns post-acceptance

editing. That is, once a manuscript has been accepted by any of the Editors, there is an opportunity for the Editor-in-Chief to go through it and suggest additional minor changes and corrections. I know that John Archer did a lot of such editing, as did Rowell Huesmann before him. I will, occasionally, do so as well, but I wanted to alert ISRA members that I likely will not be doing so to the same extent as my predecessors. This is not because I don't think such editing is useful. Indeed, as an author I benefitted from their editing. Rather, because the workload is getting heavier, and because we have fewer AEs, I'm afraid that if I spend too much time tweaking accepted manuscripts then I will not be able to handle new manuscripts in a timely fashion. Besides, ultimately the responsibility for making a final version as good as possible is the authoring team. So, I urge everyone —authors, reviewers, editors—to fix as many writing problems as possible before the manuscripts are “accepted.”

Finally, I really enjoy reading the manuscripts as they come in, and helping authors produce better articles. I also greatly appreciate the efforts of our Associate Editors, Consulting Editors, and ad hoc reviewers in producing *Aggressive Behavior*.

Regards,

Craig

XXIV ISRA World Meeting 2020 in Ottawa, Canada July 20-24

The 2020 International Society for Research on Aggression World Meeting will be in Ottawa, Canada from July 20-24. The meeting will be hosted by Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt (University of Ottawa), Dr. Patricia McDougall (University of Saskatchewan), and Dr. Shelley Hymel (University of British Columbia).

Ottawa is home to Canada's federal government, national associations, international embassies, and national and international media. Ottawa is a G8 capital and one of the safest and cleanest cities in the world. The meeting will take place at the University of Ottawa, which is the largest French-English bilingual university in the world, with 10 faculties and 43,000 students registered for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral studies. The University of Ottawa ranks among the top 10 leading research universities in Canada and is located in the heart of Ottawa's tourist area. The main campus is adjacent to the acclaimed Rideau Canal. Century-old buildings, state-of-the-art new construction, and lovely open grounds surround it. Parliament Hill, several national museums, the Byward Market, shops and boutiques, as well as many restaurants offering a wide variety of cuisines, are all within walking distance of the conference site. Several hotels are within walking distance, including the celebrated Château Laurier.



The scientific program will include invited speakers, symposia, and poster session, as well as a young investigators' meeting. The social program will include a welcome wine and cheese reception, sound and light show at Parliament Hill, and a barbeque gala dinner closing reception. An optional dinner cruise on the Ottawa River will be available to participants. To learn more about Ottawa, see www.ottawatourism.ca. For more information about the conference, please visit www.ISRA2020.ca. You can also contact us directly at ISRA2020@uottawa.ca.

In Memoriam of Ronald Baenninger

Ronald Baenninger (1937 – 2019)



Ronald Baenninger, long time ISRA member, and the second (and longest serving) editor of *Aggressive Behavior* (1979 – 2003) passed away suddenly on March 29, 2019, at the age of 81. Under his dynamic editorship, *Aggressive Behavior* expanded from its initial focus more on animal aggression to a broader focus on animal and human aggression and the connections between them. This reflected his own eclectic evolving interests spanning biology, technology, art, and psychology.

After graduating with his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Stephens Institute of Technology in the late 1950s, Ron enrolled in the Graduate School of Industrial Administration (GSIA) at Carnegie-Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon University) in 1960 thinking of a business career that would take advantage of his engineering background. However, GSIA was closely connected with psychology at Carnegie, and Ron became close friends with several bio-psychology graduate students (particularly Gordon Pitz and James Korn) and took courses from Psychology Professor Kenneth ('Keck') Moyer, an early ISRA member and outstanding teacher and researcher on the psychobiology of animals' aggressive behavior. Moyer, who, later on, became the first editor of *Aggressive Behavior* (1974 – 1979), had a significant influence on Ron's career path. Despite having the appearance and dress of other GSIA graduate students (he toiled around Pittsburgh in a Jaguar XK140) Ron realized that studying the bio-psychology of aggression was more interesting than pursuing business and engineering and would connect him with much more congenial, free-spirited colleagues whom he would enjoy. Consequently, after he obtained his masters at Carnegie, Ron left GSIA, and spent a year teaching psychology at Bethany College in West Virginia. Then in 1962 he enrolled in the PhD program in Behavioral Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University where he earned his PhD in 1966 under James S.

Meyer with a dissertation showing (with a clever experiment) that aggressive mouse killing by rats was not suppressed by concurrent administration of pain but was suppressed by a conditioned stimulus signaling a forthcoming administration of pain¹.

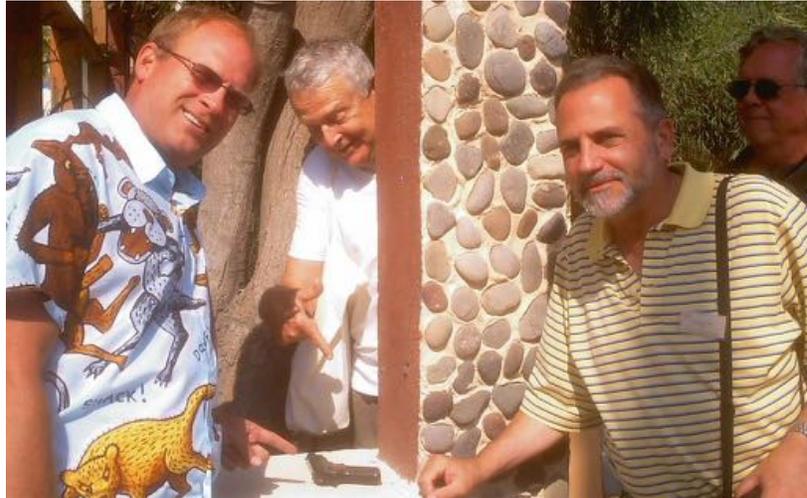


Ron outside his lab at Temple University

Moving to Temple University as an Assistant Professor of Psychology, Ron accelerated his exploration of what moderates both interspecies (rat-mouse) and intra-species (Siamese fighting fish) aggression and particularly how aggression and non-aggression can be conditioned or suppressed. With multiple experiments in high impact journals, Ron replicated his discovery of the enhancing effects of concurrent pain and inhibiting effects of anticipated pain on interspecies aggression; was able to demonstrate that the septal area in rats' brains plays a notable role in controlling interspecies aggression²; showed that aggression had an intrinsic reward value³; and showed how multiple conditioning procedures could be used to inhibit interspecies aggression⁴. At the same time, he demonstrated that performing intra-species threat displays (in Siamese fighting fish) can be reinforcing but that the characteristics of a conspecific that enhance the likelihood of a threat display (e.g., larger size) diminish the likelihood of a predatory attack⁵. These were all significant and important additions to our understanding of aggressive behavior and predatory attacks, but for those who knew Ron for the gentle, smiling, non-aggressive, animal loving person he was, this focus of his research on aggression in animals seemed surprising -- until they realized that Ron was most interested in how aggression could be inhibited and in the connections between animal and human behavior.

Through his well-designed experiments with rats and Siamese fighting fish, Ron had confirmed for himself that predation and other forms of inter and intra species aggression operated with different mechanisms, and, certainly, Ron was a believer in the value of the careful experimental method as psychologists know it (he even built his own equipment for automatically recording aggressive contacts between animals during experiments⁶). However, he was also a voracious reader of scholars who used other methods including naturalistic observations of animals and humans and was constantly trying to integrate findings from different methodologies⁷. As an art lover and animal lover (and particularly a dog lover), he was also not shy about venturing into new areas of animal behavior that he found interesting even if they seemed to have little connection to aggression, and he produced well written, interesting articles about these things, e.g., 'the connotative meaning of animal names⁸', 'the decline of the appearance of animals from Western art⁹', and 'herding-dog behavior¹⁰'.

At about the same time, Ron was thinking about the need to see human aggressive behavior other than as a simple extrapolation of animal behavior¹¹ and was perceiving the limits of neurophysiology in explaining human aggressive behavior¹². Ron had never believed that humans had an innate aggressive drive, but he felt more research was needed on differences and similarities between humans and animals in learning mechanisms affecting aggression. When he took over as editor of *Aggressive Behavior* in 1979, he was



Williams, Baenninger, Donnerstein, & Johnson
Discover 'gun' at ISRA in Santorini in 2004

determined to give as much voice to cognitive, social, and developmental psychologists who were researching human aggression as was given to biopsychologists studying animal aggression. In his opening editorial, he wrote, "Inevitably, each editor of a journal helps to characterize it. My aim is to foster mutual interest and even a rapprochement among those who study aggressive behavior from social and biological perspectives." He stuck to this aim all through his 14 years as editor, and even proposed a cognitive/social/developmental psychologist as editor (me) when he ended his term. As a result, *Aggressive Behavior* became a recognized high-impact source for research on the social/cognitive foundations of aggression in humans as well as on the biological foundations of aggression in animals and humans.

In 1991 Ron edited and released the book, *Targets of Violence and Aggression*¹³, in which he had his invited authors focus on human aggression but draw a parallel with animal aggression by emphasizing the role that the "target of aggression" plays in "eliciting" aggression. Of course, Ron would not have denied that humans also "emit" aggressive behavior with no noticeable immediate stimulus behavior by the target, but I am sure he saw this approach to a volume of essays by distinguished authors as a way to draw animal and human researchers closer together, and I think the book has done just that. At about the same time as he edited this book, Ron embarked on a new research direction that, while only tangentially related to aggression, attracted widespread attention-- the functions of yawning. With a combination of experiments and field studies, Ron showed that yawning is predictive of a subsequent increase in arousal and activity, suggesting to Ron that yawning may be a mechanism that both animals and humans use to prepare for situations where vigilance is important as in agonistic contexts where aggression may occur¹⁵.

The above review of Ron Baenninger's scholarly research reveals him as a careful and unbiased scholar who has contributed substantially to the advance in our knowledge of aggression and to the directions in which our field is going. But the work I have mentioned is only the tip of an iceberg. One needs to read the many book reviews, obituaries for colleagues, and other essays

that he has written on everything from art to automobiles to female aggression (written with his wife, MaryAnn Baenninger) and to read his lovely memoir (written with his brother) about his parents' to really see the extent and depth of his contributions to our world. His writings reveal Ron as an outstanding and compassionate author with broad interests, whose works are a pleasure to read.

When Ron retired from Temple University in 2007, he enthusiastically took on the role of “first spouse” for his wife, MaryAnn, who was appointed president of the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota and then President of Drew University in New Jersey. Ron loved the role and had great fun at events for college presidents' spouses, riding around on buses with the other spouses (most of whom were female, of course). In retirement, as throughout his life, Ron loved acting and singing, cooking, mentoring his grandchildren, reading mysteries, walking on beaches, and being a good conservationist. He also never lost his love of all animals and especially dogs.

To those who have known this congenial, gentle, warm, non-hostile man, it is impressive that he could do so much without losing any of his humility or kindness towards others. However, it is even more impressive when one considers the path of Ron's early life while the world was at war.

Ron was born in Japan in November 1937 – the son of a Canadian mother from Saskatchewan and a Swiss father from Zurich who was the Japanese commercial representative for a Swiss silk and textile company. Roni, as his parents called him, was an even tempered baby and began his extensive world travels almost immediately when he was only one year old, going with his mother to Canada, New York, and then Switzerland via boat, of course, where his father joined them. War clouds loomed though Roni was too young to notice the many signs apparent particularly at the Swiss borders. When WWII began in September 1939, Roni and his parents had to struggle to get passage back to their Japan home from Genoa to New York, from there to Montreal and Vancouver by train, and from Vancouver to Japan by boat. Despite the scary situation and growing animosity for foreigners in Japan during this time, Roni had a stimulating time growing up in Japan and gaining from the influence of at least three cultures and languages – Canadian (English), Swiss (German), and Japanese. The 4-year-old attended a protestant Sunday school, learned Japanese, played with



**Ron & his mother visit Canada
from Japan in January 1941**

Japanese kids, helped the Japanese servants with cooking (to their great pleasure), entertained everyone with his enthusiastic singing of English songs, and was befriended by a Japanese naval

officer who was the son of one of the servants. However, as the political situation worsened, Roni and his mother, who had health problems, again traveled across the Pacific to Canada for treatment, but returned to Japan and Roni's father in September 1941.

Then Pearl Harbor intervened. While the Swiss (and Roni was Swiss by birth) were neutral, the situation for Westerners in Japan deteriorated particularly after General Doolittle's bombers flew over Roni's house and woke him from a nap on their way to bombing Tokyo. The family decided to leave Japan for good, but it was only with great difficulty and with the help of the Swiss diplomats whom Roni's father had cultivated that they managed to sail starting in August 1942 from Kobe by a very circuitous route through Japanese occupied territory (Shanghai –Singapore) across the Indian Ocean to Mozambique, then through U-boat infested waters to Cape town, and north to Liverpool, and by train to London where Roni celebrated his fifth birthday at the London Zoo. Finally, Roni and his family zig-zagged across the U-boat infested North Atlantic and arrived in Canada at the end of December 1942, having spent almost 5 months escaping from Japan back to Canada.

Ron's remaining childhood, spent on a farm in Saskatchewan, an apartment in Montreal, a flat near Zurich, and a house in Montclair, New Jersey was much less dangerous but perhaps equally responsible for his life-long interests in human and animal behavior in different cultures, in his fascination with machines and great automobiles, in his interests in ice skating and watching hockey, and in his devotion to education and learning. How much Ron's achievements and demeanor in life were influenced by this exotic childhood is hard to estimate, but it seems certain that the diversity of his interests, his determination to acquire knowledge, his gentleness and good grace, and the smile he had for everyone had to be influenced by this background.



Ron & his brother Martin and his father & mother in Canada in 1947

Ron is survived by MaryAnn, his spouse of thirty-two years, his children and their spouses, Maggie Baenninger Nass and Karl Nass; Dan Moore and Lucy Cucciniello Moore; grandchildren Lukas and Sela Nass, and Jack and Luke Moore; his brother and sister-in-law, Martin and Celia Baenninger, nephews Christopher and Olivier Baenninger and their families; and the extended Kyle and Bänninger families of Canada and Switzerland.

-L. Rowell Huesmann (University of Michigan)

All,

I remember Ron Baenninger fondly. He was an casually elegant figure with a sweater draped tastefully around his neck and a wry sense of humor. Though he was dubious about the value of physiological research into, and neurologic conceptualizations of, aggression we agreed on the interest and importance of the positive reward value of aggression; his thoughtful 1974 paper on the topic preceded mine by 5 years. Ron's wide-ranging and idiosyncratic interests were shown by his subsequent inquiries into social aspects of yawning. He will be missed



The attached pic shows Ron & the usual suspects rounded-up in and around my daughter's treehouse during the 2006 ISRA meeting in Minneapolis

-Michael Potegal (University of Minnesota)

¹ Baenninger, R. (1967). Contrasting effects of fear and pain on mouse killing by rats. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology*, 63(2), 298-303.

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⁴ Baenninger, R. (1970). Suppression of interspecies aggression in the rat by several aversive training procedures. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology*, 9 (3), 379-384.

⁵ Baenninger, R. & Kraus, S. (1981). Some determinants of aggressive and predatory responses in *Betta splendens*. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology*, 95 (2), 220-227.

⁶ Berg, D. & Baenninger, R. (1972). A device for recording aggressive contact between animals. *Behavior Research Methods and Instrumentation*,

⁷ Baenninger, R., Estes, R., & Baldwin, S. (1977). Anti-predator behavior of baboons and impalas toward a cheetah. *African Journal of Ecology*, 15(4), 37-329.

⁸ Baenninger, R., Dengelmaier, R., & Navarrete, J. (2000). What's in a name? Uncovering the connotative meanings of animal names. *Anthrozoos*, 13(2), 113-117.

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A Travel Diary of an Early Career Scholar: ISRA Member Cara Swit

This is what the University at Buffalo South Campus looks like in Spring – weeping cherry blossoms in full bloom under beautiful blue skies. Recently, I was lucky enough to spend five weeks visiting Jamie Ostrov (University at Buffalo, SUNY) and Kim Kamper-DeMarco (Buffalo



State College, SUNY) following the SRCDC conference held in Baltimore. The first time I visited Jamie and Kim was in 2014 after the ISRA conference in Atlanta – I was two years into my PhD at that point. Now 2.5 years post PhD, I approached this visit with excitement as I intended to build international collaborations that would support my academic career.

It was also an opportunity for professional development where Jamie allowed me to ask endless questions about mentoring, work/life balance, collaborations, manuscript and grant writing, and how to flourish in the field as an emerging researcher. His productivity and esteem in the field of aggression continue to inspire me and I feel incredibly lucky to have received his guidance and mentorship during my visit.

Kim and I are at similar stages in our career and we are both committed to making an important contribution to the aggression field. We spent our time sketching out research and manuscript ideas and planning for the future. Best of all, we developed a friendship that goes beyond our work.

Other ISRA colleagues that I connected with during my visit to Buffalo included Stephanie Godleski (RIT), Sarah Blakely McClure (Canisius College) and Amanda Nickerson (Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention). When I first visited UB in 2014, Sarah was only a few months into her Masters. During my visit this year, I attended Sarah's Dissertation defence - what a privilege! The UB team, Kim and I are looking forward to presenting together at ISRA 2020.

The second half of my visit to the US involved two weeks visiting BYU Family Life colleagues, Sarah Coyne, Craig Hart, and David Nelson. Sarah and I connected at ISRA 2014 and I met Craig and David at ISRA 2016 in Sydney, where I was a part of the organising committee. My time at BYU was not just about considering future research plans and ideas for manuscripts, it was also a time to embrace the talent that comes out of BYU, particularly in sports and the arts. The China Spectacular was an absolute highlight of my time at BYU.



ISRA Members: Craig Hart, Cara Swit, & David Nelson

Jenna Cassinat hosted me for two days at Utah State University. During this time I met with Diana Meter, Lisa Boyce, Tasha Olson and Shawn Whiteman to hear about the great research coming out of this excellent institution. Jenna's enthusiasm in hosting me was a strong reminder that our graduate students have so much to offer and we should always be thinking about opportunities that allow them to contribute their unique skills and knowledge.

The 90 days spent in the US started at the SRCD conference in Baltimore and it ended with the World Anti-Bullying Forum in Dublin. International conferences are our playgrounds for worldwide collaborations, friendships and learning. Thank you colleagues and friends for welcoming me into your institutions, for your professionalism and generosity.

A Walk Through History: A Half-Century of Reminiscences about ISRA

Roger Johnson, Professor Emeritus
San Clemente, California

As ISRA approaches its 50th anniversary in 2022, it seems in order to look back and reminisce about my many years with the society going back to the early 1970s. As the outgoing archivist, former *ISRA Bulletin* editor, and after multiple stints on the Council I have many fond memories. I have personally known every ISRA President with the exception of our current president Barbara Krahe, but I am catching up with her on email exchanges. Today, I'm afraid that there are only a few members remaining who go back to the early years. That would include two Californians (Ross Parke and myself), Rowell Huesmann in Michigan, and Lea Pulkkinen in Finland.

As many know, ISRA was founded by scholars who were concerned about the Viet Nam War, the Cold War, the threat of nuclear war, and the social conflict that was troubling the world.

In August of 1972, 14 scientists gathered at the Prince Hotel in Tokyo to consider what they could do to help understand individual and collective violence. Saul Rosenzweig came up with the idea of forming a new society, and he quickly recruited John Paul Scott who remained an inspiration for many decades. In recognition, the Scott Award is presented at every world meeting to a distinguished scientist who made lifetime contributions to aggression research.

Another ISRA award is the Kirsti Lagerspetz Junior Investigator Award. Kirsti was another founder of the society, a remarkable woman who spent a week on the Trans-Siberian Railway to reach Tokyo from Finland. She was later elected as president of the society and I was privileged to know her when I lived in Finland in 1979. Kirsti typified the interdisciplinary and international interests of many ISRA members. She began her career studying the genetic basis of aggression in mice. Later she turned to bullying in children, media violence and peace research. She also wrote novels, children's books, fairy tales, and one of her students (Kaj Björkvist) later became the 23rd president of ISRA.

Paul and Kirsti both exemplify the goals that were set forth by the founders of ISRA. Both were scientists who were truly interdisciplinary in their interests and international in their reach. From the very beginning, the society was dedicated to these principles and a quest to enhance knowledge about the causes and control of aggressive behavior. (Details about the founding of ISRA can be found in *Aggressive Behavior*, 13, 1987, 53-57.)

Over the last half-century, I have attended 18 ISRA meetings. What always impressed me was the talented people with so many diverse interests coming together from all over the planet with a common goal. I rather liked the international focus of ISRA partly because of my own background which included several years living in Japan as a kid. Later I lived in Egypt for two years was able to travel around the Middle East, parts of Africa, and all over Europe. In graduate school, I flew to Germany, England, and New Zealand testing pilots for the Apollo Space Program. Later I taught at universities in Finland and London. The international focus of ISRA remains one of the distinctive features of the society.

At the 1998 World Meeting that I organized in New Jersey, I worked hard to attract scholars from places that are poorly represented such as Asia, Africa, and South America. I did get an Egyptian scholar to attend. I also brought in some Russian graduate students and Longquan Cai (we called him Jimmy) from China. I was able to obtain a grant from the Soros Foundation to encourage foreign participation but it became difficult to figure out how to distribute the funds. Finally, I bussed all foreign participants down the road to United Jersey Bank. We marched everyone in, and anyone who could show they were not American was handed \$500 in cash.

Interdisciplinarity was another of ISRA's goals, and many members belonged to multiple international and interdisciplinary societies. I also belonged to ISPP (International Society for Political Psychology) and in 1986 I attended the ISPP meetings in Amsterdam. I quickly ran into none other than ISRA's first president John Paul Scott, a Rhodes scholar who authored 237 journal articles plus 8 books including the influential *Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog*. But instead of talking politics, he told me about his research on canine evolution and I told him about my research implanting electrodes in rat brains. In addition to his leadership in founding of ISRA, Paul also helped found the Animal Behavior Society and the Behavior Genetics Society which later elected him president.

Memorable Meetings

Among memorable meetings for me was the XVI meeting in Santorini organized by

recent ISRA president Kaj Börkqvist who recently replaced me as archivist. While many ISRA meetings have been at isolated conference centers, the Santorini meeting was right in the middle of the picturesque town of Fira overlooking the Aegean Sea. Another notable meeting was the 1990 Banff meeting organized by executive secretary Gordon Russell. I remember joining Gordon, Kaj, and Rowell Huesmann (AB Editor and president in 1998) for a strenuous (for me) hike up a mountain where we talked about everything except aggression.

At the off-year Szombathely, Hungary meeting in 1989 they trotted all of us to the famous thermal baths where we stripped and waded into the steaming pea green waters to enjoy the distinctive aroma of sulfur. I bumped into none other than Neil Miller, renowned scholar and one of the originals from the Tokyo meeting. As an undergraduate, I devoured many of his writings about S-R reinforcement theory and the idea that principles of animal behavior could apply to humans. He published widely in anthropology, sociology, animal behavior, neurophysiology and even delved into psychoanalysis. I well remember his books *Frustration and Aggression*, *Social Learning and Imitation*, and *Personality and Psychotherapy*. He was one of the first to do brain stimulation in rats (which was my research in graduate school) and he also became a pioneer in biofeedback. What did we talk about in the steam bath? Raccoons. Neither one of us could figure out what to do about the arch enemy of suburbia. Raccoons destroyed his gardens in Connecticut and they stripped the grapes from my half-acre vineyard in New Jersey when the sugar content reached 15 degrees Brix. Raccoons outsmarted both of us.

At the Szombathely meetings I also got to know Hungarian researcher Borisz Szegal. Turns out he was a former officer in the Russian army. After the meetings, he invited me to his home in Budapest and gave me a royal tour of the city. What did we talk about? The Russian perspective of what happened in WWII vs. the American version found in most history books I was familiar with. Turns out that Borisz knew a lot more about 20th century European history than I did.

The same year I was invited by animal behaviorist and ISRA member Robert Hinde to visit St. Johns College in Cambridge. Robert had an amazing career which ranged from being a captain in the RAF to becoming the president of the British anti-war Pugwash Group. Academically, he received awards for his work in ethology, ornithology, child development, psychiatry, primatology, anthropology, and zoology. His students included Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey. When we toured his labs, my jaw dropped when he quipped that he regretted devoting so much of his career to bird behavior when so much research was needed to understand human aggression. He took me to High Table where we had dinner in academic regalia perched several feet above the rest of St. John's College. The ceremonies were conducted in Latin and we drank wine from 500 year old silver chalices. Robert's contributions and his breadth of interests were truly inspiring.

Another fond memory comes from the XIV World Meeting in Valencia organized by Manuela Martinez who was later the European *ISRA Bulletin* editor. To put a real face on violence, I attempted to organize a bull fight outing so we could see for ourselves whether killing bulls for sport was artistry or butchery. I got no takers. I ended up going by myself to watch these huge animals charge into the ring not knowing that 20 minutes later horses would drag them out dead. My long-time friend Martin Ramirez (who organized the Seville meetings) found out that I had gone and later caught up and joined me in the stands. Martin did not defend the "sport" but he tried to explain the pageantry and ceremonial aspects which made it popular for some.

Perhaps my favorite meeting was the 1984 World Meeting in Turku, Finland organized by Kirsti Lagerpetz (ISRA president in 1988) and Lea Pulkkinen. Lea was a developmental psychologist who attended many of the early ISRA meetings and then became active in the ISSBD (International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development) where she was elected president in 1991. In 1983 Lea was named woman of the year in Finland. I got to know her quite well when she sponsored me on a Fulbright Fellowship which brought me and my family to the University of Jyväskylä during the winter of 1979. It snowed every day but we sometimes got a peak of sunlight just over the horizon from about 10-2. My kids cross country skied to school and were the only Americans in the entire school.



I taught undergraduate and graduate courses on aggression. I remember many challenges such as trying to explain what television violence was all about. There were only a couple of black and white TV channels at that time and they usually carried old Russian movies or marathon cross country ski races that went on all day. Living in Finland did give me an opportunity to travel including a harrowing trip when we drove our Renault into the Soviet Union at the height of the cold war. A more pleasant trip was when I lectured at the Universities of Stockholm, Uppsala, and Bergen, Norway where I got to know Dan Olweus who became ISRA president in 1996. On one trip we drove straight north well beyond the Arctic Circle maybe only a thousand miles from the North Pole. I still remember the look on the face of the lone soldier guarding the border at Kivilompolontulli when he was confronted with an American family driving south into Suomi, one of the northernmost countries in the world.



The highlight of the Turku meeting was the closing banquet which was held in the famous 13th century Turku Castle. Please note the photo which shows a processional of ISRA members filing into the castle. Other photos show the elaborate banquet inside and a conversation with Len Eron and Sey and Norma Feshback. (Len was the 10th ISRA president and Sey was our 8th president.) Another photo shows the boat ride at Naantali where Rowell Huesmann and Ron Baenninger can be seen chatting on the right.



Meeting Drama

ISRA's history has not always been smooth. In fact, the first World Meeting in 1974 attended by about 50 participants was disrupted by Toronto protesters who misunderstood what we meant by "aggression." Lea Pulkkinen remembers being shocked when protesters disrupted a plenary session and threatened founding president Saul Rosenzweig, which forced him to leave the meetings.

This brings me to the drama of my own World Meeting at Ramapo

College in 1998. Everyone got a T-shirt with the names of the famous cities where ISRA had met in the past: Tokyo, Paris, Siena, Mexico City, Toronto, etc. but emblazoned in the middle was **MAHWAH** which most people never heard or and few could pronounce. The town is actually larger than Manhattan but with only .01% of its population. The Lenape Indian name *Mahwah* means "meeting place" and its claim to fame was when George Washington's armies camped there several hundred years earlier.

This was the 25th anniversary of ISRA and we featured the first president John Paul Scott who talked about the founding of the society and its goals. He observed that any animal that can invent war can also invent peace. He urged the group to remember the words of Francis Bacon that "knowledge is power" but he went on to add that scientific knowledge alone is not enough. We must also figure out ways to share knowledge in order to promote peace.

One session on TV violence featured a power point presentation by media expert Ed Donnerstein (an ISRA president and executive secretary). This was in the early days of computer graphics and as luck would have it the projector promptly broke. Ed gracefully continued his media presentation without media describing what we would have seen if the projector had worked. The next day we bussed everyone into NYC for a joint session at the Rockefeller University sponsored by Neil Miller. When we arrived at the East Side of Manhattan, a water main broke and flooded all the streets forming a moat around the university. We could not get anywhere near the meeting site so everyone had a long walk through ankle-deep water.

Even more drama took place when I chartered an evening boat ride around Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty. We bussed everyone to a wharf at Liberty Harbor where I had carefully arranged for dinner at the only restaurant in the warehouse area. Upon arrival were stunned to find out that the restaurant had closed. Frantically we dispatched a cab back to Jersey City to buy some pizza which we served on the boat. We quickly ran out and many people had a lovely boat ride but almost nothing to eat. On the way home, the bus driver refused to stop at any restaurant because it was not in his contract. All the restaurants were closed when we got back to the boonies in Mahwah so many people went hungry that night.

This meeting was co-chaired with my good friends Ron and MaryAnn Baenninger. Ron was the *Aggressive Behavior* editor from 1979-2003 and became the ISRA archivist after that. Like many in ISRA, he had a wide variety of interests and talents beyond his animal research. His father was Swiss, his mother was Canadian, and he was born in Japan. He co-

authored a book *In the Eye of the Wind* about how his family escaped Japan on a cargo ship during World War II. Ron started his career as a mechanical engineer but quickly took up an interest in animal behavior. He was also a cook, actor and singer, and loved dogs. Since we had both published research on why *Betta splendens* (Siamese Fighting Fish) kill each other, that was often a topic of conversation when we met. But Ron was also a car nut so instead of talking about aggression we often debated whether the British or the Italians made better sports cars. He drove an MG and I had an Alfa. In his later years he became a leading expert on yawning behavior. When Mary Ann became a college president, Ron published *Confessions of a Male Presidential Spouse* in *Inside Higher Ed*. I was saddened to learn that Ron passed away in March of this year.

We have come a long way since the early 1970s, and I have been fortunate to witness much of this evolution. Perhaps by accident, my 1972 book *Aggression in Man and Animals* came out of the ethos of the time when scientists were asking how the biological and behavioral sciences could improve understanding of the violence in the world. Many of us were alarmed at the direction civilization seemed to be taking. About 100 million people died from wars in the 20th century, a figure 12 times higher than the 19th century and 22 times greater than the 18th century.

ISRA Evolves with Technology

After joining ISRA I served on the council a number of times. In 1987 I took over the Editorship of the *ISRA Bulletin* from founding editor Caroline Blanchard. Her husband Bob was an original from the Tokyo meeting and his expertise as executive secretary from 1978 to 1984 greatly strengthened the society. As *Bulletin* editor, I gradually converted it from a typewritten and mimeographed format to a computer-generated newsletter which enjoyed the breathtaking new technology of proportional spacing. I changed the editorship format from a single American editor to a dual rotating North American Editor and a European Editor. During my 18 years of editorship, I had frequent interchanges with ISRA treasurer (and later executive secretary and president) John Knutson. What often happened was that the enthusiasm generated at World Meetings tended to dissipate during the off year. John displayed considerable leadership in holding everything together and at times the two of us had to make important decisions about the society.

With the advent of computers, everything changed. I set up a website for the society and became the first webmaster. I had to adopt the web address "ISRAociety.com" because the acronym ISRA was already taken by the Illinois State Rifle Association. In the beginning, our website was primitive and nothing like the polished version we enjoy today. Eventually the *Bulletin* was converted into a dual format with both a paper version and an identical electronic version posted on the website and circulated by email. I well remember the years of delivering hard copy of the *Bulletin* to the print room and later picking up cartons of the newsletter which had to be stapled, folded, inserted into envelopes, and then stamped and addressed. Inevitably it was suggested we eliminate the paper version, but many resisted arguing that it was preferable to read something on a piece of paper like we had been doing all our lives rather than staring at the screen of a stupid computer.

In 2006 I retired from academia and moved to California. I had cartons full of old ISRA material including all the *ISRA Bulletins* but I had to downsize so I sadly discarded most of it. Then, a few years later, they asked me to take over the role of archivist from Paul Brain, ISRA president in 1984. Paul sent me two enormous cartons filled with folders of typewritten

letters, mostly correspondence among officers, letters from people inquiring about membership, and bank statements of deposits and withdrawals. (Today there is very little paper generated since everything is now electronic.) I carefully guarded all of this until 2016 when Kaj Börkvist became archivist.

When the time came to transfer the archives, I prepared a big package which was carefully wrapped and double boxed and then mailed to executive secretary Dominic Parrott in Atlanta. A few weeks later I got an unmarked letter from the United States Postal Service which contained a torn portion of the carton indicating that the package had been damaged or lost and they were trying to find it. Apparently something happened between a postal transfer facility in California and Atlanta. Dominic and I frantically tried to contact the USPS but you could not call either facility and no one responded to letters. I contacted the Postmaster General of the United States and Dominic tried to contact the mail recovery center in Atlanta. Months of letters and phone calls led to nothing. The USPS claimed they were doing a tracing but they found nothing. Alas, part of the old archives are now gone forever. Fortunately, a second shipment I sent later was received. Even better, Dominic wisely asked me earlier to forward to him what I consider the most important letters so we still have those. Dominic has now converted all that paper to computer files, which appear to be safely in the hands of current archivist Kaj Björkvist, former president and European Editor of the *Bulletin*.

Troublesome Issues for ISRA

In looking back over almost 50 years, I see three recurring troublesome issues. The first has to do with the interdisciplinary thrust of ISRA. While much of the impetus in the early years of the society came from those in the biological sciences, that perspective has unfortunately declined. Not only do we miss the zoologists, primatologists, medical doctors, and neurophysiologists, we also continue to lack the contributions of anthropologists, sociologists, and political scientists from the social sciences. Is ISRA becoming a society of American psychologists? In the early days we had quite a few disciplines represented, especially in the biological sciences. I remember many meetings when we ran two parallel sessions with the human/social on one side, and animal/physiological on the other. I am disturbed to see one of the pillars of the society slowly diminishing.

Second, I was often puzzled why ISRA was well-represented by certain countries but not their neighbors and why entire continents went unrepresented. Why were there so many members from Finland, UK, Spain, Italy, Canada, France, and Germany but so few from other European countries? Why are there almost no members from Asia, Africa, and South America?

A third issue is the lack of clarity regarding the mission of the society. The ISRA mission statement says that the purpose of the society should be both scientific and educational. We know what scientific means but it is unclear what is meant by educational. Should ISRA involve itself with social issues? What about complicated issues such as gun violence, war, sexual harassment, or media violence where science tries to weigh in on matters tainted by politics? Researchers applying for a grant dealing with aggressive behavior often pay lip service to the need for curing the evils of society. The research gets done, but the authors are often cautious about applications to society. Currently there is no provision in the ISRA Constitution or By-laws for the society to make endorsements on social or political matters, even if they are also scientific issues. But the By-laws do allow the president to appoint a commission to review a special problem and to issue a public statement on its own if it wishes.

An early case of this came up with the Seville Statement on Violence (SSV). To

oversimplify, the SSV states that there is nothing in our biology which makes human beings inherently violent. It argues that warfare is a cultural invention, not a biological system. The SSV goes on to issue a message of hope and purpose saying that we have the ability to end war and acts of violence. This issue was debated at the ISRA World Meetings of 1982 in Mexico City. Twenty leading world scientists (half of them ISRA members) then gathered in May of 1986 in Seville at the Spanish National Commission for UNESCO. They crafted the SSV statement and approved it.

A year later there was heated discussion in the same city at the off-year 1987 ISRA meeting which led to debates about whether ISRA should also adopt the SSV. Founding president Saul Rosenzweig opposed the SSV saying that ISRA should have nothing to do with the United Nations. One of the leading advocates was ISRA member David Adams who began his career doing single unit recordings from cat brains and ended his career developing the Culture of Peace Programme for UNESCO. Typical ISRA member! Reminds me of how I started my own career doing brain stimulation and ended up studying nuclear war (and now I am working to expose the dangers of nuclear power). In any case, the SSV was supported by the ISRA Commission on Violence, however it was never formally endorsed by the society. The ISRA Commission on Violence became one of 40 organizations which endorsed the SSV <http://culture-of-peace.info/brochure/pages34-35.html>.

Media Violence

An even bigger issue came up with regard to media violence. Those who attend ISRA meetings know that at almost every conference there is a session on media violence. Back in the 1980s, Len Eron (ISRA president in 1990) generally started his talk proclaiming that “researchers have finally put the last nail in the coffin” on this issue. The public knew very little about the media research that scientists had been doing for decades but finally the issue made a big public splash when California passed a law banning the sale of violent video games to minors. The state was immediately challenged by the video game industry and the case ended up in the U.S. Supreme court in 2011.

ISRA became involved after 13 members who were media researchers generated a statement summarizing the scientific findings from hundreds of research studies which reported harmful effects on children exposed to media violence. Following the Constitution and By-laws, ISRA members requested the establishment of a Media Violence Effects Commission. After all, six ISRA presidents spent much of their careers researching media violence. ISRA president at the time Deborah Richardson declined to establish a commission which meant that ISRA would not take any position on media violence. She reasoned that ISRA was a scientific society which cannot get involved in political issues. Many were disappointed and argued that public education was also one of the defining purposes of the society. They also felt that media violence was not just a political issue but also a scientific issue because there was so much empirical evidence (much of it done by ISRA members).

In response, I circulated a petition to dozens of other scientific societies and ended up with an impressive list of 115 professionals (both ISRA and non-ISRA scholars) who endorsed the statement on media violence. (For details, visit the December 2011 issue of the *ISRA Bulletin*.)

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57530523f850829dde1dc031/t/578558ba15d5dbb0fab1e0e1/1468356795529/december-2011.pdf> All of this became part of the *Amicus Brief* submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court by the state of California. In the end, the \$20 billion (at the time) video

game industry easily won the case by a 7-2 vote. The majority opinion was presented by Justice Scalia who ridiculed scientific research and referred to the pro-media violence endorsers as “experts.” Justice Breyer presented a detailed and scholarly dissent citing 60 research journal articles. Clarence Thomas was the only other dissenter. He offered a bizarre argument that freedom of speech does not apply to children. No one knows if the outcome would have been different if ISRA had weighed in.

Here is a passionate excerpt from Justice Breyer: “What sense does it make to forbid selling to a 13-year-old boy a magazine with an image of a nude woman, while protecting a sale to that 13 year-old of an interactive video game in which he actively, but virtually, binds and gags the woman, then tortures and kills her? What kind of First Amendment would permit the government to protect children by restricting sales of that extremely violent video game *only* when the woman—bound, gagged, tortured, and killed—is also topless?” In short, the court ruled that it is OK for children to see women tortured and killed as long as they are not topless.

ISRA members Deana Pollard Sacks, Brad Bushman, and Craig Anderson went to the trouble of analyzing 3 million references to test the “expertise” of those who entered testimony on both sides. They found that 60% of those who endorsed the California law had published research on the topic. Only 17% of the entertainment industry “experts” had conducted research. Most of the leading newspapers praised the decision as a victory for free speech. The *New York Times* published a number of Op-Eds ridiculing video game violence but they refused to publish a counterpoint submitted by ISRA presidents Len Eron and Rowell Huesmann.

Should ISRA Get Involved in Public Issues?

So sexual content and cursing continues to be regulated, but extreme violence is not. In the 1980s, kids could watch fun video games like “Rape-Lay” and now we can all enjoy “Sniper 3D Assassin,” a game where the purpose is to kill reporters. Many feel frustrated at how scientific research gets ignored or denigrated, and in fact the anti-science stance of politicians is now worse than ever. So what can researchers and scientific societies do to exert more influence on public discourse and public policy?

A strong response came from ISRA president Menno Kruk, himself a medical pharmacologist who continued efforts after his presidency in 2008. He urged ISRA to take a much stronger role in public debates about aggression. He argued that ISRA was unprepared to deal with media violence and with its present structure it cannot provide an effective challenge related to other social issues which will arise in the future. He argued that participating in public debate can be done without taking sides, and that retreating to the ivory tower of pure science allows charlatans to prevail. He urged ISRA to change some of its By-laws and be pro-active in educating the public.

Although not much came from Menno’s advice, I am pleased to see more voices speaking out on public issues. In the July 2017 issue of the *ISRA Bulletin*, past president Mike Potegal issued a call to action for ISRA to address the public good. He focused on the controversial issue of gun control. In the same issue, our current president Barbara Krahe implored aggression researchers to get involved in complex issues such as terrorism.

In conclusion, may I also call attention to additional remarks that Barbara made at the business meeting of the XXIII World Meeting in Paris in 2018. Her title was “Continuing the ISRA Mission: Some Challenges and Ideas.” Barbara reminded everyone that ISRA is dedicated to being truly international and interdisciplinary and we need to place research in a broader framework which promises to impact the spread of human violence. In particular, she said we

must engage in translational science to increase the influence of our work beyond academia. She noted the concentration of membership in North America and lack of representation from many important areas of the world. She also lamented the declining participation of those in both the biological sciences and the social sciences other than psychology. *Curious how these same themes have been coming up for almost half of a century!*

Does ISRA need structural changes? More outreach efforts? More sensitivity to the origins and purposes of the society? While there are many ways in which the ISRA has thrived, troublesome challenges remain. It has been a wonderful experience for me to observe and participate in so many of the developments over the last half-century. Many others have done the same and I hope they will speak out and share their views. And I hope that current members will thoughtfully consider how they can promote goals of the society.

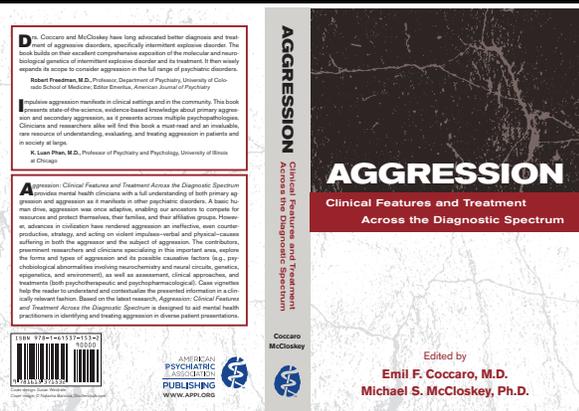
Contribute to the ISRA Website by Writing a Blog!

Our goal is for the ISRA website to become a nexus for interchange on aggressive behavior among scholars & researchers. We typically post 1-2 new blog posts per month, the links for which are then disseminated via Twitter and Facebook. Indeed, ISRA has cultivated a growing audience on these social media platforms whom we can reach immediately. Blog length can range from several paragraphs to a page or more. Please see <http://www.israsociety.com/blog/> to see the archive that continues to grow!

ISRA is open to our members' ideas about the topic of a proposed blog post. We respect your time and want this contribution to be of minimal burden to you. So, we would suggest that you not prepare something completely new; rather, it should be a blog that is relatively easy for you to write, based in works you have already published, etc. (it can even be in collaboration with a colleague or a student). In the end, it should be a piece that would be easily digestible by scholars and the public. For those of you who might wonder, "How do I write a blog?" – well, we can even provide you with a blog about how to write a blog!

If you are interested, please contact ISRA Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott at parrott@gsu.edu and let him know a topic that would work well for you and a month during the upcoming year that you would like to submit it for dissemination on the ISRA website.

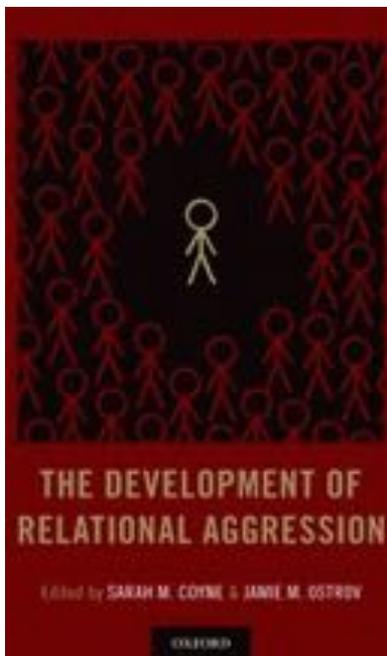
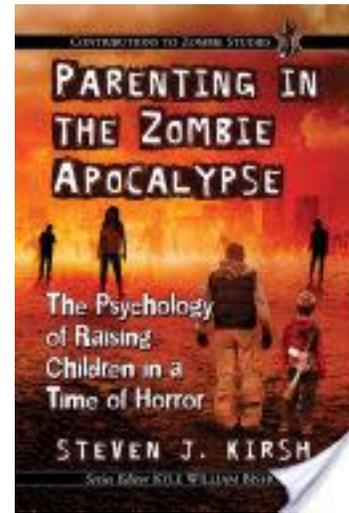
New Books by ISRA Members



Aggression: Clinical Features and Treatment Across the Diagnostic Spectrum (2019), E.F. Coccaro and M.S. McCloskey (eds), American Psychiatric Association

Kirsh, S. J. (2019). *Parenting in the zombie apocalypse: The psychology of raising children in a time of horror*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc.

Description: Parenting is difficult under the best of circumstances—but extremely daunting when humanity faces cataclysmic annihilation. When the dead rise, hardship, violence and the ever-present threat of flesh-eating zombies will adversely affect parents and children alike. Depending on their age, children will have little chance of surviving a single encounter with the undead, let alone the unending peril of the Zombie Apocalypse. The key to their survival—and thus the survival of the species—will be the caregiving they receive. Drawing on psychological theory and real-world research on developmental status, grief, trauma, mental illness, and child-rearing in stressful environments, this book critically examines factors influencing parenting, and the likely outcomes of different caregiving techniques in the hypothetical landscape of the living dead.



Coyne, S. M. and Ostrov, J. M. (2018). *The development of relational aggression*. New York: Oxford University Press.

The following text is from Oxford Scholarship online where you can also order the text: *The Development of Relational Aggression* provides a rich and detailed literature review on developmental processes associated with the perpetration of relational aggression (and related terms of indirect aggression and social aggression) across childhood, adolescence, and emerging adulthood (with a brief mention of relational aggression in adulthood). Relational aggression is defined as behavior that is intended to harm another's relationships or feelings of inclusion in a group. Unlike physical aggression, the scars of relational aggression are more difficult to see. However, victims (and aggressors) may experience strong and long-lasting consequences, including reduced self-esteem, loneliness, substance use, eating pathology, depression, and anxiety. This volume begins by providing an overview of the field, including a discussion of definitions, developmental trajectories, methodology, and theoretical approaches. Additionally, the volume examines the biobehavioral and evolutionary processes associated with this type of behavior. The book also examines a number of risk factors and socializing agents and contexts (e.g., family, peers, media, school, culture) that lead to the development of relational aggression over time. An understanding of how these behaviors develop will help inform intervention strategies to curb the use of relational aggression in schools, peer groups, and family relationships, which are addressed in an extended chapter.

<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780190491826.001.0001/oso-9780190491826>

News About ISRA Members

Sarah Coyne was promoted to Full Professor in the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University (BYU), Provo, UT, USA

John Lochman received the 2019 Lahoma Adams Buford Award for Peace and Social Justice, The University of Alabama.

John Lochman received two new federal grants:

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01 MD013806)

Project Title: Reducing Youth Violence and Racism/Discrimination: The Efficacy of Comprehensive Prevention strategies (CPS)

Multiple Principal Investigators:

Sara McDaniel & John Lochman

Period of Support:

4/01/19-11/30/23

This 5 year project will evaluate the effects of a comprehensive intervention addressing individual, educator, school and community variables in 20 schools. Interracial and intraracial youth aggression and school disengagement will be examined in a comparison of traditional Coping Power versus an augmented Coping Power program which includes a focus on racism and discrimination (with 1020 at-risk students). Implicit bias training will be delivered to educators and tested with, and culturally responsive adaptations to PBIS will also be tested.

Department of Justice (2018-DC-BX-0032)

Project Title: An Evaluation of Alabama's Treatment Courts: Are Drug Courts Help to Eradicate Opioid Abuse?

Principal Investigator:

John Lochman & Nicole Powell

Period of Support:

1/01/19-12/31/22

Four-year evaluation of the Adult Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, and Veterans Courts throughout the state of Alabama, examining individual and court-procedure characteristics which predict drug and recidivism outcomes.

Jamie Ostrov received a new federal grant:

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R01 HD095832)

Project Title: Peer and Family Adversity, Neuroendocrine Regulation, and School Readiness across the Transition to Kindergarten.

Multiple Principal Investigators:

Jamie Ostrov & Dianna Murray-Close

Period of Support:

4/01/19 – 03/31/2024

This 5 year project will test how peer (e.g., peer victimization) and family adversity impact school readiness broadly defined (i.e., academic competence, social behavior, executive functioning) in a sample of 400 children transitioning from preschool to kindergarten. In addition, models will test the mediating role of salivary and hair cortisol.

Emerging Aggression Researchers

Ruschelle Leone (2018 ISRA Young Investigator)

Doctoral Program: Georgia State University

Mentor: Dominic Parrott, Ph.D.

I am a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at Georgia State University (GSU) under the mentorship of Dr. Dominic Parrott. I am currently completing my clinical internship in substance abuse at the Medical University of South Carolina. This fall, I will begin a postdoctoral fellowship in Public Health at GSU. The overarching aim of my research program is to inform evidence-based intervention programming to reduce alcohol-related and non-alcohol related aggression. I am interested in identifying individual and situational factors that predict (1) the perpetration of aggression and (2) bystander behavior when witnessing sexual aggression using a range of survey- and laboratory-based methodologies. My dissertation was funded by a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award awarded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. This project aimed to examine the effects of alcohol intoxication on bystander intervention for sexual aggression. Using a laboratory paradigm for bystander intervention for sexual aggression, social drinking men between the ages of 21 and 30 completed a measure of intent to help strangers, were randomly assigned to an alcohol or no-alcohol control beverage condition and participated in a laboratory analogue for bystander intervention for sexual aggression. In this paradigm, participants had the option to stop a female confederate, who had expressed a strong dislike of sexual content in the media, from watching a sexually explicit film clip. Results indicated that intent to help strangers is associated with a decreased likelihood of sexual aggression intervention among intoxicated, but not sober, men (Leone & Parrott, 2019). Although evidence for the effects of drinking on bystander intervention is still in its infancy, results from this project suggest that programming efforts should begin accounting for the inhibiting effects of acute alcohol intoxication.

Recent Publication:

Leone, R. M. and Parrott, D. J. (2019), Acute Alcohol Intoxication Inhibits Bystander Intervention Behavior for Sexual Aggression Among Men with High Intent to Help. *Alcohol Clin Exp Re*, 43: 170-179. doi:10.1111/acer.13920

Francesca Kassing

Doctoral Program: The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

Mentor: John Lochman, Ph.D.

Francesca is completing her fifth year as a doctoral student in the child clinical psychology program at the University of Alabama. Her research interests include risk and protective factors for externalizing behavior and predictors of intervention outcomes for children and adolescents.

She has successfully defended her dissertation, titled "*The Power of Change: How Changes in Community Violence and Parental Monitoring Influence Reactive and Proactive Aggression in At-Risk Youth.*" Her project used geographic information systems (GIS) and archival crime data

to longitudinally assess the relationships between community violence, parental monitoring, and different types of aggressive behavior (i.e., reactive and proactive aggression) in at-risk youth.

Francesca has a long-standing interest in risk and protective factors for aggressive behavior. Her master's thesis centered on the interaction between physiological functioning and inconsistent discipline in predicting reactive versus proactive aggression. She also completed her undergraduate honors thesis at Duke University, under the direction of Dr. Terrie Moffitt, on the moderating effects of psychological disorders on the relationship between childhood maltreatment and adult violent convictions.

Recently, she has been conducting research involving physiological predictors of intervention response and has led manuscript preparation for a paper examining the effectiveness of kindergarten screening procedures in predicting convictions 20 years later. She has also led and contributed to manuscript preparation for publications on the effects of trauma exposure on externalizing behaviors.

Currently, Francesca is completing her doctoral internship in the Child and Family Track at the Medical College of Georgia/Charlie Norwood VA and will graduate in August. She has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Trauma and Grief Center of Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital where she will continue her research on the effects of traumatic experiences and predictors of intervention outcomes. Long-term, she would like to have an academic career conducting research in her interest areas while also teaching and supervising doctoral students.

Recent Publications and Presentations

Kassing, F., Lochman, J. E., McDonald, K., & Vernberg, E., (March 2019). Polytraumatization as a Predictor of Behavioral Outcomes among At-Risk Adolescents. In *Toward Understanding Heterogeneity in Adolescent Trauma Experiences and Later Adjustment Outcomes*. Paper presented in symposium at the Society for Research in Child Development's Biennial Convention, Baltimore, MD.

Kassing, F., Lochman, J. E., & Hudnall, M., (November 2018). Exploring Parenting as a Moderator in the Relationship between Community Violence and Aggression within the Context of a Natural Disaster. In *Using Technology and Diverse Measurement Methodologies to Examine the Influence of Community Context on Children's Adjustment*. Paper presented in symposium at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies' 52nd Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.

Kassing, F., Godwin, J., Lochman, J. E., Coie, J. D., & Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (2018). Using early childhood behavior problems to predict adult convictions. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 47, 765-778. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10802-018-0478-7>

Kassing, F., Lochman, J. E., & Glenn, A. L., (2018). Autonomic functioning in reactive versus proactive aggression in children: The influential role of parenting. *Aggressive Behavior*, 44, 524-536. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21772>

Sarah Blakely-McClure

Doctoral Program: University at Buffalo, SUNY

Mentor: Jamie M. Ostrov, Ph.D.

PhD Research Topic

My dissertation was recently defended and examines the influence of attributions on the development of internalizing problems from relational victimization experiences in early childhood. To date, attributions in young children and their role in peer victimization experiences and maladjustment has been relatively understudied. Using multiple informants, multiple methods, an interview developed for the study to measure attributions, and a longitudinal design, the study conducted path analyses to explore the associations between relational victimization, self-blame and hostile attributions, and maladjustment in early childhood.

Previous Experience

During graduate school at the University at Buffalo I have had the opportunity to assist in managing a lab as well as pursue longitudinal observational work with young children examining aggression and peer victimization. During this time I have also trained as a therapist and have had the great opportunity to be able to directly apply my knowledge from research regarding how we identify areas for change such as individual and environmental factors, support healthy self-esteem development, modify problematic behaviours (such as aggression), and help children and families better achieve their treatment goals. In graduate school I have had the opportunity to teach and received multiple teaching awards including an award from the Psi Chi/Undergraduate Psychology Association for my work as a teaching assistant and from the UB Graduate school, Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award, and a national teaching award from the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology (SSCP). Currently, I am completing my clinical internship at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Toronto, ON, Canada) working with children and youth with disruptive behavior disorders as well as mood and anxiety disorders.

Future Career plans

I have accepted a position at Canisius College (Buffalo, NY, USA) as an Assistant Professor of Psychological Science and I am excited to begin working as a teacher and mentor. I hope to foster curiosity in understanding child development and human behavior and hope to assist to consider many options for their future and not let fear or lack of confidence hold them back. As well, and maybe most importantly, I strive to foster the development of curious and independent individuals. It was through my own learning experience which I developed a love for research. I am passionate about my chosen discipline, and want to entrust this desire to my students. I hope to engage students, and disseminate psychological research in and outside of the classroom. I also hope to continue to pursue interesting research questions and continue to develop my program of research to continue to help inform early interventions for healthy development. I also plan to continue to provide therapy services to families and children, as I believe this will continue to inform my teaching and research endeavors.

Research Interests

Aggression/bullying (forms and functions), peer victimization, peer relations, emotion regulation, attributions, social information processing, self-concept, self-development, resiliency, early childhood development, interventions for aggression and peer victimization, developmental psychopathology, and clinical intervention for children and families.

Recent Publications:

Blakely-McClure, S. J. & Ostrov, J. M. (2018). [Examining co-occurring and pure relational and physical victimization in early childhood](#). *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 116, 1-16. doi:10.1016/j.jecp.2017.07.011

Blakely-McClure, S. J. & Ostrov, J. M. (2016). [Relational aggression, victimization and self-concept: Understanding pathways that lead to low self-concept](#). *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 45, 376-390. doi: 10.1007/s10964-015-0357-2

Emily L. Newman

Tufts University

Mentor: Klaus A. Miczek, Ph.D.

Early in her graduate career, Emily investigated aggressive, pro-social, and drug-taking behaviors in point-mutated mice lacking benzodiazepine-, ethanol- or allopregnanolone-sensitive GABA_A receptors. Her findings highlighted the necessity of benzodiazepine-sensitive α 2-containing GABA_A receptors for benzodiazepine-heightened aggression and reduced social anxiety-like behavior (**Newman et al. 2015**, *Psychopharmacology*). In addition, her work on voluntary alcohol-drinking by *Gabra2* point-mutated mice provide some of the first evidence to support a functional role of *Gabra2* point mutations in the modulation of voluntary alcohol intake (**Newman et al. 2016**, *ACER*).

In a publication in *Neuropsychopharmacology* (**Newman et al. 2018a**), she used behavioral, pharmacological and molecular techniques to reveal a potential role of GluN2D-containing NMDARs in alcohol-heightened aggression in a select subset of male mice. This publication was selected for a Research Highlight (Torregrossa 2018, *Neuropsychopharmacology*), and Emily shared this work in an invited lecture, given in Crete, Greece at the biennial European Behavioural Pharmacology Society Meeting (August, 2017).

Last year, Emily also published work on stress-escalated voluntary alcohol consumption, and the effects of pharmacological interventions targeting aspects of the hypothalamic pituitary adrenal axis (**Newman et al. 2018b**, *Psychopharmacology*), and coauthored an original investigation on the effects of alcohol on the motivation to engage in aggressive behavior (**Covington et al. 2018**, *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*). Most recently, in collaboration with her fellow graduate students, Emily organized and co-wrote a manuscript that reviews systematically the role of social defeat stress in escalated alcohol, cocaine and opioid consumption (**Newman et al. 2018c**, *Neurobiology of Stress*). Emily was awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (**F31AA025827**) from the NIH in 2017.

For her dissertation, Emily developed a novel female social defeat stress protocol to model phenotypes associated with affective disorders in humans. This stress procedure produces abnormal social interactions, poor nesting, hypervigilance, and a distinct pattern of chronic defeat-associated neural activation. At present, Emily plans to use retrograde tracing and immunohistochemical techniques to identify brain areas that are activated in female mice with a history of social defeat stress that receive a therapeutic dose of ketamine

Faculty and Research Staff Openings!

The University of Canterbury is looking to appoint a Professor or Associate Professor to lead the Child and Family Psychology programme (the rank of Associate Professor in New Zealand is broadly equivalent to that of 'Reader' in the United Kingdom and 'Full Professor' (non-Chair) in North America). The successful candidate will be an internationally recognised scholar and researcher in a relevant field of child and family psychology (such as clinical child psychology). They will also be a highly experienced practitioner, who will be dedicated to the leadership task of preparing future Psychologists for Aotearoa New Zealand. The appointment includes a permanent professorial post, as well as the role of Programme Director for a three-year renewable term. More information about this role can be found [here](#).

Two research staff positions at Deakin University and the University Centre for Drug use, Addictive and Anti-social Behaviour Research, Australia:

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/949/cw/en/job/494532/research-fellow-alcohol-harmreduction-and-violence-prevention>

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/949/cw/en/job/494517/research-fellow-grade-2>

Two research staff positions for new NIH supported R01 (see above section) at the University at Buffalo and the Social Development Laboratory (PI: Jamie Ostrov):

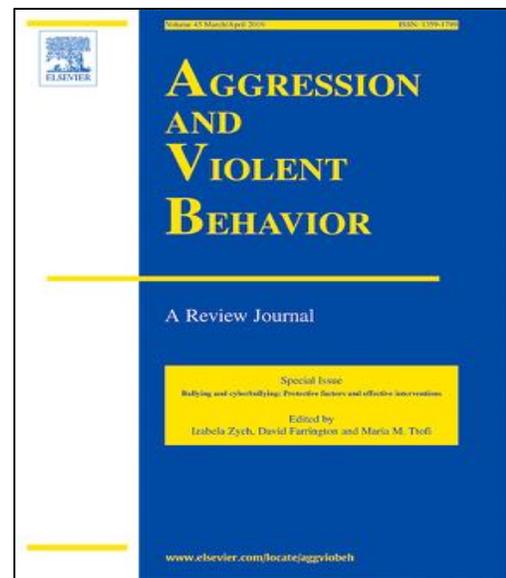
<http://www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/postings/19765> (Research Technician)

<http://www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/postings/19820> (Research Support Specialist/Coordinator)

A New Special Issue!

A recent Special Issue of *Aggression and Violent Behavior* titled "Bullying and cyberbullying: Protective factors and effective interventions" was guest edited by Izabela Zych, David P. Farrington and Maria M. Ttofi. This Special Issue includes a series of narrative and systematic reviews focused on protective factors against bullying and cyberbullying, together with reviews of intervention programmes.

Bullying and cyberbullying are harmful aggressive behaviours with serious short and long-term consequences. This Special Issue brings together some of the leading researchers in the field to fill some pressing gaps in knowledge and to provide a global vision about what is known, what needs to be discovered next, and what can be done to decrease



bullying and cyberbullying. The table of contents is included below:

1. Editorial: Zych, I., Farrington, D.P., & Ttofi, M.M. (2019). Bullying and cyberbullying: Protective factors and effective interventions. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 1–3.
2. Zych, I., Farrington, D. P., & Ttofi, M. M. (2019). Protective factors against bullying and cyberbullying: A systematic review of meta-analyses. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 4-19.
3. Kowalski, R. M., Limber, S. P., & McCord, A. (2018). A developmental approach to cyberbullying: Prevalence and protective factors. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 20-32.
4. Smith, P. K., López-Castro, L., Robinson, S., & Görzig, A. (2019). Consistency of gender differences in bullying in cross-cultural surveys. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 33-40.
5. Nocentini, A., Fiorentini, G., Di Paola, L., & Menesini, E. (2019). Parents, family characteristics and bullying behavior: A systematic review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 41-50.
6. Lambe, L. J., Della Cioppa, V., Hong, I. K., & Craig, W. M. (2019). Standing up to bullying: A social ecological review of peer defending in offline and online contexts. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 51-74.
7. Romera, E. M., Casas, J. A., Gómez-Ortiz, O., & Ortega-Ruiz, R. (2019). Moral domain as a risk and protective factor against bullying. An integrating perspective review on the complexity of morality. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 75-82.
8. Zych, I., Baldry, A. C., Farrington, D. P., & Llorent, V. J. (2019). Are children involved in cyberbullying low on empathy? A systematic review and meta-analysis of research on empathy versus different cyberbullying roles. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 83-97.
9. Espelage, D. L., Valido, A., Hatchel, T., Ingram, K. M., Huang, Y., & Torgal, C. (2019). A literature review of protective factors associated with homophobic bullying and its consequences among children & adolescents. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 98-110.
10. Gaffney, H., Ttofi, M. M., & Farrington, D. P. (2019). Evaluating the effectiveness of school-bullying prevention programs: An updated meta-analytical review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 111-133.
11. Gaffney, H., Farrington, D. P., Espelage, D. L., & Ttofi, M. M. (2019). Are cyberbullying intervention and prevention programs effective? A systematic and meta-analytical review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 134-153.
12. Sivaraman, B., Nye, E., & Bowes, L. (2019). School-based anti-bullying interventions for adolescents in low-and middle-income countries: A systematic review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 154-162.

13. Blaya, C. (2019). Cyberhate: A review and content analysis of intervention strategies. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 45*, 163-172.

Full texts of the articles can be accessed at:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/aggression-and-violent-behavior/vol/45/suppl/C>

Feel free to contact Izabela Zych (izych@uco.es), David P. Farrington (dpfl@cam.ac.uk), or Maria M. Ttofi (mt394@cam.ac.uk) for requests, questions and comments regarding this Special Issue.

Call for Papers!

Call for Papers: Sexual Violence: International perspectives and recommendations for research, practice, and policy

Special Issue for *Psychology of Violence*

Co-Editors: Heather Littleton and David DiLillo

Submission Deadline: February 1st, 2020.

Sexual violence is a global epidemic with enormous social, psychological, and economic costs to societies worldwide. This Special Issue will highlight research regarding sexual violence worldwide, with an emphasis on research focused on sexual violence in understudied contexts and among vulnerable populations. The primary goals of this special issue are to both increase our understanding of sexual violence globally and to provide recommendations for research, practice, and policy initiatives.

Psychology of Violence (**Impact Factor:** 2.50) is intending to publish a special issue in 2021 focusing on international perspectives on sexual violence research. The editors of this special issue will be the current journal associate editor, David DiLillo, University of Nebraska Lincoln, and guest editor, Heather Littleton, East Carolina University.

The theme of sexual violence includes multiple forms of sexual violence, including, but not limited to, childhood sexual abuse, rape, and sexual harassment, occurring across the lifespan. Papers are welcome with data collected from any country, particularly papers focusing on sexual violence in countries and among populations that have been understudied in much of the empirical literature. Relevant topics include:

- The epidemiology of sexual violence with a focus on psychological, cultural, and societal factors.
- Risk and protective factors for sexual victimization and/or perpetration.
- Consequences of sexual victimization, including negative outcomes and resilience.
- Sexual violence among highly vulnerable marginalized groups (e.g., trafficked individuals, individuals with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities).

- Evidence-based intervention and prevention programming at the societal, community, and/or individual level.

In order to be considered for this issue, the study population must be understudied in the existing empirical literature.

Empirical papers, quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods investigations and integrative review papers will be considered. Studies addressing the needs of vulnerable populations are particularly encouraged as are those that focus on the role of cultural factors in sexual violence. All papers must delineate clear and focused recommendations in the areas of research, practice, and policy.

Psychology of Violence is a multidisciplinary research journal devoted to violence and extreme aggression, including identifying the causes of violence, finding ways to prevent or reduce violence, and developing practical interventions and treatments.

Authors considering submitting a paper are asked to read the [submission guidelines](#) carefully. Invitation to submit to this special issue does not guarantee acceptance, and all papers will be subject to the usual peer review processes of the journal.

Manuscripts should be submitted by **February 1st, 2020**.

Any queries can be addressed to Heather Littleton at littletonh@ecu.edu or David DiLillo at ddilillo2@unl.edu



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION

Founded in 1972

ISRA: an Interdisciplinary Society

ISRA, the International Society for Research on Aggression, founded in 1972, is an international interdisciplinary, organization dedicated to the study and dissemination of information on the causes and consequences of aggressive behavior and violence in all of its forms and contexts.

The Social Burden of Violence

The human capacity for aggressiveness and violence inflicts a considerable burden on society. Obviously, it can lead to death and immediate physical injury, but it also creates long-term physical and emotional disabilities. In addition, violence has a profound effect on those who witness it, such as the families and communities of the victims. Moreover, it impairs the ability of communities to address important public health issues, such as infectious diseases, malnutrition, urban decay, and environmental hazards. Violence and aggression often prevents the delivery of critical public services, such as emergency management and education. Such effects on society tend to exacerbate the very adverse social conditions that promote aggression, facilitating a vicious circle, with violence as a crucial factor.

home page: <http://www.israsociety.com/>

ISRA's Core Mission

Effectively addressing violence and aggression, whether it be child abuse, domestic violence, homicide, terrorism, sexual violence, or civil wars, requires a sustained focus by international scientists. *ISRA's principal mission* since 1972 is to show that aggression and violence, as well as alternative ways to resolve conflicts, can be successfully studied using scientific methods.

Members, Meetings and Media

- *ISRA* members gather for *World Meetings* every other year on alternating continents.
- All members receive *Aggressive Behavior* the official journal of ISRA at a discount.
- Members receive the *ISRA E-Bulletin*.

From Understanding to Solutions

Finding solutions to the pervasive consequences of aggression, requires a multidisciplinary approach. To understand the complex causes, our research addresses brain and other physical processes that underlie the human capacity for violence and the psychological processes that facilitate violent actions. Strategies providing alternatives to violence are studied together with the social factors that serve to promote or prevent violent behavior. Importantly, students of aggression studies are increasingly moving beyond the simple awareness of new results in other disciplines, to develop important research approaches that span multiple disciplines. As a result, novel areas of synergy and convergence

between different disciplines and methodologies emerge. *ISRA meetings* and media provide the forum and the multidisciplinary audience.

Join ISRA & Turn page! ►

A Multidisciplinary Society

ISRA is home to virtually all scientific disciplines interested in aggression and violence, such as psychology, neuroscience, anthropology, animal behavior, endocrinology, primatology, psychiatry, genetics, pharmacology, sociology, and criminology. Joining *ISRA* will help you to reach the right audience for your own research. Its meetings provide an optimal forum to learn about novel concepts and advances in other fields. Members enjoy reduced registration fees at *ISRA meetings*.

Awards

- Each World Meeting the **John Paul Scott Award** is presented to a scientist with a distinguished lifetime contribution to aggression research.
- **Presentation Awards** are granted to young scientists for excellence in presentation of original research to a multidisciplinary audience.

The ISRA Logo

The ISRA logo reflects our intention to advance the understanding of a deeply rooted behavior. The humanoid figure in the logo was modified from a petroglyph called "the warrior" on the Minnesota-Ontario border¹⁾. The figure seems to express the ambivalent human attitude towards aggression. The figure faces us, a spear in its left hand, reflecting potential to kill. The tip of the spear points downwards, so the weapon is not about to be thrown. The right hand is up and open, a stop-signal in many cultures, and often a

signal of peaceful intent. The heart-shaped body expresses force and human's emotional nature.

¹⁾ M Furtman, *Magic on the rocks* (2000) ISBN: 0-916691-02-0

Home page: <http://www.israsociety.com/>

Membership

ISRA has four kinds of members:

- **Fellows** are scientists working in any biological, psychological or social science on problems of aggression.
- **Associates** are scientists or professionals supportive of the Society's goals but who are not actively engaged in aggression research.
- **Student members** are graduate students nominated by a Fellow of the Society.
- **Life Fellows** are chosen on a significant lifetime record in aggression research.

Joining ISRA

In order to join the society, please visit the ISRA webpage at:

<http://www.israsociety.com/membership/>

If you have any questions please contact ISRA Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott at parrott@gsu.edu

Dues including *Aggressive Behavior* subscription

Fellow 60\$ Associate 60\$ Student 30\$

These are 2019 rates

Updated Information see *ISRA home page*.

Official Journal: *Aggressive Behavior*

<http://www.interscience.wiley.com>